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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS DIVISION OF AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

S. H. McCRORY, CHIEF

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

WASHINGTON, D. C., JUNE 20, 1927.

IMPORTANT! NEW BOOKS OF TRANSPORTATION REQUESTS WILL NOT BE ISSUED ON JULY 1. REQUESTS NOW ON HAND MAY BE USED ON AND AFTER THAT DATE. EACH TRANSPORTATION REQUEST YOU HAVE IS STAMPED

BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS, AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING, 1927.

ON EACH REQUEST USED ON JULY I OR THEREAFTER, THE STAMPED 1927 SHOULD BE CROSSED OUT AND "1928" INSERTED. ATTENTION AGAIN IS CALLED TO THE IMPORTANCE OF SHOWING THE SYMBOL NUMBER ON ORIGINAL AND DUPLICATE TRANSPORTATION REQUESTS.

THE OUTSTANDING EVENT THIS MONTH IN WASHINGTON IS THE CONFERENCE OF THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF SOIL SCIENCE, HELD JUNE 13-22. THIS ORGANIZATION, WHICH INCLUDES IN ITS MEMBERSHIP THE OUTSTANDING SOIL SCIENTISTS OF THE WORLD, HAD ITS INCEPTION AT A GATHERING AT BUDAPEST, HUNGARY, IN 1909; A SECOND MEETING FOLLOWED AT STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN, IN 1910. INTERNATIONAL CONDITIONS, HOWEVER, PREVENTED A THIRD GATHERING UNTIL 1922, WHEN THE MEETING WAS HELD AT PRAGUE, CZECHOSLOVAKIA. IN 1924, THE FOURTH CONFERENCE WAS HELD AT ROME. AT THIS MEETING THE SCOPE OF THE ORGANIZATION WAS ENLARGED AND IT WAS DECIDED TO HOLD A WORLD-WIDE CONFERENCE AT WASHINGTON IN 1927, TO BE KNOWN AS THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF SOIL SCIENCE.

THE CONGRESS IS DIVIDED INTO SIX COMMISSIONS DEALING WITH DIFFERENT PHASES OF SOIL SCIENCE, AS FOLLOWS:

FIRST COMMISSION - SOIL MECHANICS AND PHYSICS

SECOND " - SOIL CHEMISTRY

THIRD " - SOIL BIOLOGY AND BIOCHEMISTRY

FOURTH " - SOIL FERTILITY

FIFTH " - CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE AND

MAPPING OF SOILS

SIXTH " - THE APPLICATION OF SOIL SCIENCE
TO LAND CULTIVATION

THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SIXTH COMMISSION ARE THE ONES IN WHICH THIS DIVISION IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED, EMBRACING AS IT DOES THE SUBJECTS OF IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE. PAPERS WERE PREPARED BY THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF OUR STAFF:

W. W. McLaughlin, "A Few Physical Soil Problems in Western Reclamation."

FRANK ADAMS, "IRRIGATION INSTITUTIONS IN THE UNITED STATES".

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B. H. McConwy, Dayer

MODIFIER NEWS LEFTER

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THE ROTIVITIES OF THE SIXTH DEMAISSING ARE THE ONES IN SHIEM THIS DIVISION IS ERRITOURABLY INTERCRETED, ENGANGING AS IT DOES THE SUBJECTS OF IERIGATION AND DRAINAGE, PARENCE WERE PREPARED BY THE FOLLOWING PERSONS OF OUR STAFF!

W. W. McLaudhein, "A Fom Payerone Suit Phoetows in Western Roctamation." Frank August "immigation ingritutions in the F. O. BARTEL, "EFFECT OF DRAINS UPON THE GROUND WATER
IN COASTAL PLAIN SOILS OF NORTH CAROLINA."
GEORGE R. BOYD, "USE OF EXPLOSIVES IN CLEARING LAND."

Mr. McLaughlin and Mr. Bartel were present at the meeting, as well as members of the staff located at Washington. Mr. McCrory acted as Chairman of most of the sessions of the Sixth Commission.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE MEETING THIS DIVISION HAD AN EXHIBIT CON-SISTING OF A NUMBER OF ENLARGED PHOTOGRAPHS IN COLORS SHOWING EROSION IN VARIOUS STAGES AND FORMS, AND A 3 X 5 FOOT MODEL OF A TERRACED FIELD.

W. W. McLaughlin arrived in Washington June 6, for the purpose of going over with Mr. McCrory the work of the irrigation section. Mr. McLaughlin on his way West will stop at St. Paul to be present at the A.S.A.E. Convention.

AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERS AT ST. PAUL, JUNE 22-25, C.E. RAMSER AND J.C. MARR WILL READ PAPERS. M.C. BETTS WILL RENDER A REPORT ON THE FARM BUILDING RESEARCH SITUATION.

EXPERIMENTS ARE BEING CONTINUED BY CARL ROHWER AT THE HYDRAULIC LABORATORY AT FORT COLLINS, COLO., TO DETERMINE A GENERAL EVAPORATION FORMULA AND ALSO TO FIND THE RELATION BETWEEN THE EVAPORATION FROM SMALL TANKS AND LARGE RESERVOIRS.

Experiments on the evaporation from a Colorado type tank under controlled conditions and checked under field conditions, resulted in the formula $E = (0.118W \pm 0.44)$ ($E = E_0$), where $E = E_0$ is the evaporation in inches per 24 hours, $E = E_0$ the difference in vapor pressure in inches of mercury. This formula gives results which agree quite closely with the observed evaporation from this type of tank. Experiments on other similar types for a short period gave results which agree equally well with the observed evaporation from these tanks. The numerical results are shown in the accompanying table.

RESULTS OF EVAPORATION OBSERVATIONS FROM SEPTEMBER 21 TO

NOVEMBER 15, 1926, EXCLUSIVE OF DAYS OF HEAVY SNOWFALL AND HIGH WINDS.

TYPE OF TANK	<u>WINDS</u> <u>DIMENSIONS</u>	AV. EVAPO	RATIO OF OB- SERVED TANK EVAPORATION	
		OBSERVED	COMPUTED	TO RESERVOIR
LARGE RESERVOIR	84.8' DIAM., 6.75' DEEP	0.102	0.128	and age der
U.S.G.S. FLOATING	31 SQUARE,	0.130	0.129	1.275
Colo, Type Buried	31 SQUARE 1.251 DEEP	0.118	0.120	1.157
U.S. WEATHER BUREAU CLASS A LAND PAN	41 DIAM. 10"	0.134	0.136	1.314

F. Q. Barzen, "Exercit or Bearles lotte une Grosses Marka."
18 Canter Praira Contes or States or States Canter Canter 198."
Grenoe H. Pover, "Date or Evaluatives in Organism Lange."

IAMA LICENSCRUIN AND MAN DARTEL WERE PRESENT AT BUE MEETING, AS WELL AS MEMBERS OF THE STAFF LOCATED AT GLOSS MOTON. NA. LICENSMY ASTED AD DARTEMEN OF MOST OF THE SEASIBLE OF THE STAFF COMMISSION.

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VARIOUS STRUCT AND FORMER, AND A 3 x 5 FOOT MODEL OF A TERRACEC FALLS.

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IN ORDER TO DETERMINE THE RELATION BETWEEN THE EVAPORATION FROM SMALL TANKS AND LARGE RESERVOIRS, OBSERVATIONS WERE MADE ON A COLORADO TYPE LAND TANK, A U.S.G.S. FLOATING TANK, A U.S. WEATHER BUREAU STANDARD CLASS A LAND PAN, AND THE STORAGE RESERVOIR AT THE HYDRAULIC LABORATORY. THIS RESERVOIR IS 84.8 FEET IN DIAMETER, AND BEFORE STARTING THE OBSERVATIONS IT WAS LINED WITH COPPER TO ELIMINATE ALL POSSIBILITY OF LEAKAGE. THE RESULTS ARE ALSO SHOWN IN THE ABOVE TABLE. THESE OBSERVATIONS ARE FOR A SHORT PERIOD ONLY, AND BEFORE DEFINITE CONCLUSIONS CAN BE DRAWN MORE COMPLETE OBSERVATIONS MUST BE MADE.

R. A. NORTON HAS SENT IN SOME INTERESTING DATA IN REGARD TO THE VALUE OF N IN KUTTER'S FORMULA FOR THE MAIN CHANNEL OF THE LAKE FORK SPECIAL DRAINAGE DISTRICT AND LATERAL NO. 15 OF THAT DISTRICT. MEASUREMENTS WERE MADE ON THE MAIN CHANNEL OVER A SLOPE COURSE 816 FEET LONG. DURING 1924 THE CHANNEL WAS LINED WITH BUSHY WILLOUS WHICH FILLED ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF THE CHANNEL. THESE WERE CLEARED OUT IN 1925 BUT BY AUTUMN OF 1926 THE CHANNEL HAD AGAIN DETERIORATED TO ABOUT THE CONDITION NOTED IN 1924.

The value of \underline{N} varied from 0.0303 when the channel was clear to as high as 0.1060 when it was choked with vegetation. A study of the rating curves for this channel reveals that as much water could be carried off by a 7-foot stage with a cleared channel as by an 11 foot stage under summer conditions with the channel uncleared.

Measurements were made on lateral No. 15 over a straight course 1,000 feet long. A continuously increasing growth of cattails was found in this channel during the period covered by the measurements and in 1926 some bushy willows made their appearance. The value of $\underline{\bf n}$ in this channel varied from 0.0278 in the early spring of 1925 to 0.1425 in June, 1926.

A NEW PROJECT ENTITLED "MECHANICAL CONTROL OF THE EUROPEAN CORN BORER" HAS BEEN INSTITUTED IN COOPERATION WITH THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS AND CERTAIN MANUFACTURERS OF FARMING IMPLEMENTS. THE WORK UNDER THIS PROJECT WILL HAVE FOR ITS PURPOSE THE ATTAINING OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE CONTROL POSSIBLE WITH AVAILABLE MACHINERY, AND THE DEVELOPING OF NEW MACHINERY THAT WILL EFFECTIVELY CONTROL THE BORER. R. B. GRAY WILL BE IN ACTIVE FIELD CHARGE OF THIS PROJECT.

H. B. Walker, who is this year directing the Farm Equipment research project, was in Washington several days in the interest of that project. Professor Walker has spent a large part of the last three months at the various state colleges in the eastern half of the United States. After the A.S.A.E. meeting at St. Paul he will make an extended trip among the Western Colleges.

FRED C. SCOBEY AND PAUL A. EWING MADE A TRIP TO ARIZONA LATE IN THE MONTH, THE FORMER TO LOCATE SUCH FLUMES AS MIGHT HAVE FEATURES WORTHY OF DESCRIPTION IN THE BULLETIN ON FLOW OF WATER THROUGH STRUCTURES OF THAT TYPE, ON WHICH HE IS NOW WORKING. MR. EWING CONFERRED WITH PROFESSOR G.E.P. SMITH AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE FORMED SOME WEEKS AGO TO PASS UPON THE ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY OF THE IRRIGATION DISTRICT RECENTLY FORMED IN SAN PEDRO VALLEY, AND LATER VISITED OFFICIALS OF THE DISTRICT AND COUNTY OFFICES AT TOMBSTONE TO SECURE DATA NEEDED IN THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT. COMPLETION OF THE LATTER STILL AWAITS ESTIMATES OF THE DISTRICT'S ENGINEERS, WHICH ARE PROMISED FOR EARLY SUBMITTAL.

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A. L. FELLOWS RETURNED TO HIS HEADQUARTERS IN DENVER, COLO., DURING THE LATTER PART OF MAY AFTER A FIELD TRIP OVER THE SOUTHWESTERN TERRITORY WHICH INCLUDED THE LEVEE WORK OF THE IMPERIAL VALLEY. Mr. FELLOWS SPENT ABOUT TWO WEEKS IN THE BERKELEY OFFICE.

WELLS A. HUTCHINS STARTED ON A FIELD TRIP DURING MAY WHICH WILL TAKE HIM THROUGH MOST OF THE STATES COVERED IN THE TERRITORY OF THE BERKELEY OFFICE. HE IS GATHERING DATA FOR A MANUSCRIPT ON THE METHODS OF REFINANCING IRRIGATION PROJECTS.

L.T. JESSUP IS ON LEAVE WITHOUT PAY AND LOANED TO THE STATE OF IDAHO FOR A PERIOD OF ABOUT TWO MONTHS, DURING WHICH TIME HE IS MAKING A STUDY OF THE KOOTENAI VALLEY DIKING AND DRAINAGE PROJECTS IN NORTHERN IDAHO.

THE BERKELEY OFFICE HAS RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING PROGRESS REPORTS:
"DUTY OF WATER IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CALIF., " BY COLIN A. TAYLOR.
"DUTY OF WATER IN SAN FERNANDO VALLEY, CALIF., " BY HARRY F. BLANEY.
"DEVELOPMENT OF GROUND WATER IN NEVADA." BY W. L. STOCKWELL.
"THE VENTURI FLUME," BY R. L. PARSHALL. "EVAPORATION FROM FREE WATER SURFACES," BY CARL ROHWER. "CONTROL OF SILT IN STREAMS AND RESERVOIRS OF TEXAS," BY R. G. HEMPHILL, AND "RECLAMATION OF ALKALI LAND," BY JAMES C. MARR.

- A. H. Senner has been requested to serve on a committee of the American Oil Burner Association organized for the purpose of preparing and directing a research program along the lines begun by this Division, in domestic oil burners. The other members of the committee are Dean Paul Anderson of Kentucky and James L. Breese, President of the Breese Engineering Corporation of Chicago. The committee expects to conduct work this summer at Johns Hopkins University. Professor Theodore Theodorsen, former research fellow of the University of Norway will conduct the investigation.
- G. M. Warren has completed the manuscript for a farmers bulletin on "Making Cellars Dry." This is intended to supersede the Yearbook Separate on "Securing a Dry Cellar."
- J.T. Bowen made a trip to New York Early in June in Connection with the design of Equipment for use in the corn borer control work. Mr. Bowen recently completed the plans for a water supply system for the Range Livestock Experiment Station of the Bureau of Animal Industry at Miles City, (Ft. Keogh), Mont. Water is pumped from the river into a 100,000 gallon settling tank by two 300 g.p.m. centrifugal pumps. From the settling tank the water is drawn through two sand filters by two triplex pumps connected in parallel, and elevated into a 75,000 gal. Steel tank 125 ft. High. Only one of the triplex pumps, however, is to be operated at a time, the other being held as a stand-by in case of breakdown. The total head on the triplex pumps is about 450 ft. All pumps are driven by double squirrel cage motors with voltage reduction starters. G.M. Warren assisted in the selection of the filters.
- F. O. BARTEL VISITED WASHINGTON JUNE 15 AND 16 FOR A CONFERENCE WITH MR. McCrory on the conduct of his soil erosion work in North Carolina.

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F. O. Glerge vibires Machineron June 15 and 16 FUR & CONTESENDE MATERIAL MACHINE & CONTESENDE DE TRE DESCRIPTION ROOM EN NORTH CARRA DESCRIPTION

- C. A. Bennett, at Tallulah, Louisiana, Reports that the Mississippi overflow has subsided to such an extent as to uncover Tallulah, although water still remains on low-lying land, interfering considerably with farm work and with the effective prosecution of his investigations. A second rise in the Mississippi is likely to cause more or less serious flood conditions in the overflowed territory for some time, although water will not rise as high as in the first overflow.
- D. L. YARNELL REPORTS SERIOUS INTERFERENCE WITH HIS WORK AT IOWA CITY, DUE TO HIGH STAGES OF THE IOWA RIVER DURING THE LAST FEW WEEKS.

 MR. YARNELL IS CONDUCTING THE INVESTIGATION OF FLOW AROUND BRIDGE PIERS AND BENDS.

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